

70 Boswell

VV adopted

The amendment creates a Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison within the USDA to educate returning veterans about farming and connect them with beginning farmer training programs. The veteran liaison will help veterans navigate USDA's programs, understand the eligibility requirements for farm programs and will be an advocate for veterans at USDA.

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AMENDMENT TO H.R. ____

OFFERED BY MR. BOSWELL OF IOWA

and Mr. Gibson of New York

At the appropriate place in title XII, insert the following new section:

1 SEC. ____ . MILITARY VETERANS AGRICULTURAL LIAISON.

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Department of
3 Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by in-
4 serting after section 218 (7 U.S.C. 6918) the following
5 new section:

6 "SEC. 219. MILITARY VETERANS AGRICULTURAL LIAISON.

7 "(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish
8 in the Department the position of Military Veterans Agri-
9 cultural Liaison.

10 "(b) DUTIES.—The Military Veterans Agricultural
11 Liaison shall—

12 "(1) provide information to returning veterans
13 about, and connect returning veterans with, begin-
14 ning farmer training and agricultural vocational and
15 rehabilitation programs appropriate to the needs and
16 interests of returning veterans, including assisting
17 veterans in using Federal veterans educational bene-
18 fits for purposes relating to beginning a farming or
19 ranching career;

1 “(2) provide information to veterans concerning
2 the availability of and eligibility requirements for
3 participation in agricultural programs, with par-
4 ticular emphasis on beginning farmer and rancher
5 programs;

6 “(3) serve as a resource for assisting veteran
7 farmers and ranchers, and potential farmers and
8 ranchers, in applying for participation in agricul-
9 tural programs; and

10 “(4) advocate on behalf of veterans in inter-
11 actions with employees of the Department.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 296(b) of
13 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
14 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (6)(C), by striking the “or” at
16 the end;

17 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
18 the end and inserting “; or”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(8) the authority of the Secretary to establish
21 in the Department the position of Military Veterans
22 Agricultural Liaison in accordance with section
23 219.”.

